

Testimony of 350 CT in Support of:

S.B. 422: An Act Concerning Residential Water Rates, Public Drinking Water Supply Emergencies and Sellers of Bottled Water

Planning and Development Committee Public Hearing

350 CT would like to voice support for SB 422 because it would discourage another water bottling plant in CT. There are 3 main reasons allowing Niagara Bottling to take water from CT residents would be harmful to CT :

- The United Nations lists water as human right and it should be held in the public trust
- Once bottling companies get access to water rights it's hard to restrict what they take
- Creating bottled water contributes to climate change

Water is a necessary component for life and it should not be given away or sold at a discount to a company that would ship it out of CT to sell for a profit. CT should be careful to protect its water sources from exploitation because sustainable clean water sources will be needed to weather the inevitable summer drought caused by the lack of sufficient snow this winter. The Metropolitan District and State of CT have a duty to protect our water resources for the people and not encourage extracting water for export and sale.

We have seen in places like Flint, Michigan that while the people suffer from unsafe water from the Flint river, Nestle is draining the aquifers that feed Lake Michigan. They are pumping 400 gallons a minute, for no cost, and then selling that water wherever they can ship it. Similarly while California is in the worst drought most of us have ever seen, Nestle is continuing to pump water out of a river using a permit that has been expired for 25 years. Once these water bottling operations are setup, they achieve some kind of self-sustaining momentum that is difficult to stop and we should not allow it to start in another part of CT.

Finally, we should recognize that bottled water is not only a cause of climate change but will also make the human suffering from it worse. Most plastic bottles are made from extracted petroleum and bottling plants require energy that would exacerbate CT's energy demands. Additionally water bottles require more fuel to ship to where they are sold than some other products because of the increased liquid weight. Consequently allowing more water to be diverted to bottling would increase the chances of droughts and other unpredictable weather and make MDC water that residents depend on less available when we have these emergencies.

For these reasons and many more I ask for your support of SB 422 and preventing water bottling in CT.

For inquiries contact

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